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ILLEGIB

18 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comment on Report that Ydigoras and Peralta Assisted Ex-President Arevalo's Return to Guatemala

25X1C
1. The report passed to the State Department by [redacted] that Defense Minister Peralta assisted Arevalo to return to Guatemala in late March, and that Peralta was close to Arbenz, is probably false.

2. We agree with Ambassador Bell's statement that "for Peralta to have connived in the entry of Arevalo is entirely out of character with everything we know of him and his personality." In fact, Arevalo's return, and the suspicion that Ydigoras may have permitted it, seem to have precipitated Peralta's decision to oust the president after many months of hesitation and refusal to join in active plotting. During almost the entire Arbenz regime, Peralta served as Guatemalan representative to the Inter-American Defense Board in "diplomatic exile."

25X6
3. Ydigoras apparently made very little effort to avert Arevalo's return, but there is no evidence that he actually had a hand in it. Despite some tardy gestures and threats against Arevalo, Ydigoras almost certainly wanted to avoid doing anything to antagonize a man he considered the most likely future president of Guatemala. Ydigoras wished to insure his peaceful retirement in Guatemala. Ydigoras' ambiguous attitude toward Arevalo may also have been a facet of Ydigoras' dissatisfaction with the United States government. His constant maneuverings, equivocations and posturings are based strictly on self-interest.

4. [redacted] may have facilitated Arevalo's return but there is no proof this was sponsored by the government.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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